

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 11

1300 Hours May 9, 2008

The next Situation Report will be Monday, May 12, 2008 around 1300 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. The National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of **11: 3 EF0 (Southampton, James City and Gloucester/Mathews counties)**, 7 EF1 (City of Colonial Heights and counties of Isle of Wight, Brunswick, Surry, Mathews, Greenville and Halifax) and 1 EF3 (City of Suffolk). Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#); [NWS 28 April Tornado Event](#)

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The VEOC has transitioned to Response Operations with normal staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations is being coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April. [Executive Order #65 \(2008\)](#)

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. The FEMA ERT-A Team demobilized on 8 May. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk closed at 2000 hours, 5 May.

WEATHER

Forecast: Friday, 9 May: Today a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. West wind around 17 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Friday night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 51. North wind between 3 and 9 mph. Saturday, 10 May: A slight chance of showers before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. North wind between 3 and 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%. Saturday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. Light north wind.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 April. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 April. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator

Twigg on 29 April. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg demobilized on 2 May and is available to assist City of Suffolk if needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Portsmouth Medical Reserve Corp activated and providing one Registered Nurse to each of three locations to assist Health Department nurses with Tetanus boosters/vaccinations. Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corp has one Licensed Practical Nurse assisting American Red Cross with community outreach/case working. Currently planning for “Community Clean Up” scheduled for 10 May.

Health Department has added fliers on “Safety Tips for Working Outdoors” to materials available at the Disaster Assistance Center. Flyer includes topics such as how to avoid sunburn, prevent dehydration and heat/sun related fatigue. It also details the difference between heat stroke, heat exhaustion and heat cramps as well as instructions to seek medical attention if symptoms are noticed.

Tetanus vaccinations and boosters are being provided to all residents and first responders at Suffolk Health Department and Suffolk Disaster Response Center.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:

City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released

Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”

BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released

BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”

Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released

Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

Virginia Department of Mental Health (DMHMRSAS)

Western Tidewater Community Services Board (CSB) has over 70 staff deployed to support the City of Suffolk, Suffolk Schools, Department of Social Services, Salvation Army and local churches. CSB staff has been deployed since 30 April to Hill Point, Burnett’s Mill, Driver, Saddler Heights and the Suffolk Disaster Assistance Center in support of mental health issues. CSB staff has provided crisis counseling and has arranged groups for families and children to assist with normalization efforts and residual emotional concerns. Those undergoing crisis support are also eligible for pre-paid phones and Wal-Mart cards. CSB has made their fleet of vehicles and staff available to transport individuals and goods. CSB staff deployment rotations will continue throughout the weeks ahead and begin to become more targeted to individuals and families expressing trauma symptoms.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery

Initial Damage Assessment Reports:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$ 60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$28,405,508	\$2,740,919
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
James City County	\$217,000	\$0
Surry County	\$ 74,000	\$0
Prince George County	\$ 18,000	\$0
Total	\$32,058,508	\$2,740,919

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in the City of Colonial Heights and Brunswick County on 2 May. Results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments that were conducted May 1-2 were evaluated by VDEM and FEMA. The Commonwealth did not meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance as most properties impacted had insurance. United Way and Social Services will be re-contacting individuals who registered at the site to develop additional information in regard to their needs. From this follow-up assessment, the city will be developing their strategy to allocate donated funds. At this time, it appears that disbursement of funds will not begin until sometime next week. Requested guidance from Department of Accounts in regard to Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia (Powers and duties of the Governor), item 10, which states that the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, up to three calendar months, to an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a disaster that has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area. ***VDEM is continuing to coordinate with state and federal housing agencies as well as the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters to assist with unmet needs.*** The City of Suffolk submitted their Notice of Interest to seek assistance under the state Public Assistance program for eligible costs. The city also submitted preliminary cost estimates associated with their response and recovery operations to VDEM.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

All food operations are being coordinated through Operation Blessing and distributed through Salvation Army and American Red Cross. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope deployed teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

The American Red Cross reports that approximately 5,021 meals have been prepared and distributed throughout the event. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. Red Cross is providing housing on a one-to-one basis. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. The Red Cross Service Center is located at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church located at 3488 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support VDEM coordinated 12 resource requests. Nine requests were completed and 3 requests were cancelled. All resource requests are closed at this time. All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Situation Unit Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk:

National Weather Service (NWS) Wakefield confirmed an EF 3 tornado impacted the City of Suffolk on 28 April. EOC operations closed at 2000 hours, 5 May, and a daily staff meeting will be held at the City Manager's Office to review operations and the need to continue recovery operations and return to normal operations. ***All curfews for the***

impacted areas has been rescinded and restrictions on access to impacted areas have been lifted. Debris removal operations in Driver and Saddler Heights are completed and debris removal operations in Burnett's Mill and Hill Point are at 60% with all storm debris expected to be removed by mid-week. ***To date, the City of Suffolk has removed approximately 20,300 cubic yards of debris. The Suffolk Disaster Assistance Center will be closing today, 9 May and services and support will be provided through City departments and volunteer organizations. VDEM Individual Assistance (IA) Staff attended the Suffolk Town Hall Meeting. Following the Town Hall meeting, IA officers met with Virginia VOAD, City of Suffolk Social Services, and Young Lawyers to begin discussing intermediate and long term recovery needs. There will be a follow up meeting to be held on Tuesday May 13, 2008.*** Approximately 633 volunteers have participated in the response and recovery efforts, donating 3,671 hours. Suffolk Police Department has established a Valuables Recovery Center for personal belongings to be dropped off and residents can reclaim them. A Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, 10 May. Individual projects will be matched with United Way volunteers.

- City of Colonial Heights:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado caused the major damage reported in and around Southpark Mall.
- Isle of Wight County:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado impacted the Carrsville area damaging fourteen homes.
- Halifax County:*** NWS Blacksburg confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes in the Virgilina area. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.
- Brunswick County:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down south of Lawrenceville with winds between 86-100 MPH and damaged 14 homes. .
- City of Portsmouth:*** The 9 members of the Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) assisting the City of Suffolk demobilized 30 April.
- City of Newport News:*** The 40 police officers assisting the City of Suffolk demobilized 5 May.
- James City County:*** ***NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 0 tornado touched down 6 miles northwest of Jamestown impacting 10 homes, with one residence uninhabitable.***
- Surry County:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado destroyed 1 mobile home destroyed in Claremont area.
- Greensville County:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado touched in the Bryant's Corner area causing damage to some outbuildings.
- Mathews County:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado touched in the Bohannon area blowing the roof off 1 house, overturning a boat and vehicle.
- Gloucester/Mathews County:*** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 0 tornado touched in the Belroi area damaging some agricultural buildings and part of a commercial building. NWS Wakefield indicated that this tornado had been previously described and listed as 2 tornadoes; however, further review of damage photos and radar data suggests that this was a single tornado.
- Prince George County:*** ***County Officials report 4 homes with minor damage and minimal agricultural damage***
- Southampton County:*** ***NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF0 tornado touchdown near Capron causing minor agricultural damage.***

Prepared by: Terry Hebert, Deputy Planning Chief
 Authority of: Michael Cline, State Coordinator
 /s/ Michael Nelson, VERT Coordinator